

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, KS, US

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES ABOUT ADOPTIONS FROM KOREA

1. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED TWO CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES BASED ON A MARCH 2 CIRCULAR LETTER FROM HOLT ADOPTION PROGRAM, INC. TO PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE PARENTS OF ORPHANS FROM THE ROK. HOLT EXPLAINS THAT ROKG IS GRADUALLY PHASING OUT INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION AND THAT HOLT CHILDREN'S SERVICES KOREA HAS HAD CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS IN PLACING CHILDREN IN KOREAN HOMES IN PAST FEW YEARS.

2. HOLT NOTES THAT ROKG INFORMED HOLT/KOREA THAT IN FUTURE FAR FEWER CHILDREN WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PLACEMENT OVERSEAS. (ACCORDING TO A TIMETABLE ESTABLISHED 2-3 YEARS AGO). HOLT HAS DECIDED TO DEVOTE ITS REDUCED FUTURE QUOTA TO PLACEMENT OF ORPHANS OVER AGE TWO, BUT EXPLAINS IN LETTER THAT PROSPECTIVE PARENTS DESIRING TO ADOPT INFANTS MAY STILL DO SO BY SENDING ONE PARENT TO KOREA TO FINALIZE ADOPTION AND ESCORT CHILD TO THE U.S.
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HOLT OFFERS GROUP INCLUSIVE TOUR PACKAGE TO PARENTS SEEKING THIS FORM OF ADOPTION. CONGRESSIONAL CONSTITUENTS EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT NEED TO TRAVEL TO KOREA AND ADDITIONAL COSTS OF ADOPTION.

3. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION ON CURRENT ROKG ADOPTION POLICY AND ANY OTHER BACKGROUND WHICH WOULD FACILITATE RESPONSES TO CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES. CHRISTOPHER

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Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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